

whose heart felt for every one, wept also. He had two shillings and a few half-pence in his pocket, and these constituted his only possessions: but he gave them willingly to relieve a fellow-creature in distress.

7. As the youth had travelled a long way without shoes, he very thankfully accepted Ralph's offer of remaining with him till next day. Accordingly, they continued with the sheep till it was time for them to be taken home, and then Ralph led his guest to his father's cottage. He introduced him to his mother, and she, with great good nature, prepared to broil them a slice of bacon. This was a most delicious treat to the sailor; and Ralph who had given away his dinner, thought it more than usually good. After supper, they retired to rest; and the next morning, when Ralph led out his flock, the poor traveller, being offered a pair of old shoes, and a hat, took his leave with many thanks, and recommenced his weary journey.

8. Several years passed away, and Ralph had almost forgotten the circumstance. He had indeed had sufficient on his mind to make him forget occurrences even more important, having for a long time led a life of sorrow. His father, who had always been fond of drinking and bad company, had at length indulged himself in these propensities till every thing was sacrificed for their gratification. It was in vain that Ralph endeavored to stem the torrent; in vain he exerted his industry; all was of no avail. His father's extravagance knew no bounds, whilst any thing remained which could be sold.

9. The flock, by degrees, was parted with, then the furniture of the little cottage, and at length the cottage itself. Nor was this all; debts accumulated, which there were no means of defraying. The man was obliged to abscond, and his wife and her son found themselves in the midst of a severe winter, without shelter or the means of subsistence. Ralph, however, being well known, and generally respected, soon engaged himself as shepherd to a neighboring farmer,